

REMARKS

The present invention relates to a method of producing and purifying a vinyl ether group-containing (meth) acrylic ester.

In the Office Action dated July 24, 2006, it is appreciated that claim 8 has been allowed. Further, claims 1-3, 5, 10, 13, 16 and 18-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on each of GB 976304 (“GB ‘304”), Bauer et al (U.S. Patent 2,692,256) or Ruckenstein et al (U.S. Patent 6,384,146) in view of *Kirk-Othmer Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology*, Acrylic Acid and Derivatives (“Kirk-Othmer Encyclopedia”).

In the present Amendment, claims 10 and 13 have been rewritten to depend from claim 8. These amendments are also supported by the specification, for example, at page 34, lines 8-14 and page 42, lines 8-17, respectively. Claims 1-3, 5, 16 and 18-21 have been canceled. Claims 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 17 were previously canceled. No new matter has been added. The present Amendment includes merely rewriting certain claims to depend from an allowed claim and canceling all other rejected claims. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that entry of the Amendment, after final, is proper. Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 8, 10 and 13 will be all the claims pending in the application.

Turning to the § 103 rejection of claims 1-3, 5, 10, 13, 16 and 18-21, as noted above, claims 10 and 13 have been rewritten to depend from allowed claim 8. In addition, claims 1-3, 5,

16 and 18-21 have been canceled. Accordingly, Applicants submit that this rejection has been rendered moot.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of claims 8, 10 and 13 are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby earnestly solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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